

EGYPT

THE GIFT OF THE NILE

The Nile River was vitally important to ancient Egyptians. It gave them food, water for their crops, and a waterway along which they could transport their goods. A Greek historian once called Egypt “The Gift of the Nile,” because the river allowed the nation to grow and thrive. Without the Nile, ancient Egypt probably would not have become the incredibly rich, cultured civilization it was. The lives—and livelihoods—of ancient Egyptians depended on this great river.

It was more than 7,000 years ago that people first settled along the banks of the Nile and began to grow crops in its fertile floodplains. Centuries later, cities developed beside the river. Near the cities, the pharaohs built pyramids to house their tombs and their riches.

The Nile begins in the south and flows northward to the Mediterranean Sea. Use the map key to locate some of the famous pyramids of ancient Egypt, and see how farmlands follow the river.

Adapted from an article
by Ann Jordan
Illustrated by Tim Foley



MAP KEY

Some Major Pyramids:

- 1 **The Step Pyramid of Djoser** at Sakkara, Egypt's first pyramid (around 2630 B.C.)
- 2 **The Bent Pyramid** at Dashur (around 2600 B.C.)
- 3 **The Red Pyramid** at Dashur (around 2600 B.C.)
- 4 **The Great Pyramid Complex** at Giza (around 2500 B.C.)
- 5 **The Pyramid of Neferirkara** at Abusir (around 2400 B.C.)



Farming Areas